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1741/SYMBP192US

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 19 and ending at page 6, line 8, with the following paragraph, (wherein a comma is added at page 5 line 28 after the term "thereupon".)

The present invention provides for systems and methods of supplying a self contained key pad assembly that mitigates mechanical over head associated with holding various key pad components, while providing for a configuration that reduces its damage susceptibility during application in harsh environments. Referring initially to Figs. 1(a) and 1(b), a plan view and a schematic side view cut of a stand alone and sealed key pad are illustrated respectively. Such key pad 100 includes a top cover 120 and a bottom cover 130 that are being over molded around a common boundary 102, 104, 106, and 108. In one aspect of the present invention, the top cover 120 and the bottom cover 130 sandwich a plurality of associated key pad components (*e.g.*, flex members, electro luminous panel, a silicone membrane with a plurality of keys thereupon, printed circuit boards, LEDs, and the like). The common boundary can be formed by a surface area and/or line perimeter common to the top cover and the bottom cover, (*e.g.* a contact surface between top and bottom cover, a surface encapsulating the key pad components, edges of the stacked components and the like.) Typically, materials employed for fabricating the top cover 120 and the bottom cover 130 can include various types of polycarbonates, thermoset plastics, thermoformed plastic, and typically material that are capable of over molding to provide a suitable bondage between the top cover 120 and the bottom cover 130. Such suitable bondage can for example be capable of supplying a sealed key pad assembly that mitigates presence of external contaminants in the device. Moreover, the top cover 120 can be fabricated with a transparent quality to provide for visual notification by illuminating a certain color or brightness on the key pad surface.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 25 and ending at page 9, line 10, with the following paragraph - (wherein the trademark symbol "TM" is added after the term "palm pilots" at page 8, line 28.)

The stand alone key pad of the present invention can be employed in a variety of electrical or electronic device that can require entry of a user's input *via* pressing alpha, alphanumerical designations or keys thereon. Examples of such devices can include, palm pilots<sup>TM</sup>, mobile phones, telephones, faxes, computers, mini computers, scanners, terminals, and the like. One particular device that can incorporate such key pad is illustrated in Fig. 4. Referring now to Figure 4, an exemplary hand held scanner is illustrated that can host a self contained key pad of the present invention. The host terminal 405 includes a display 406 for displaying information. The display 406 can be a touch screen and may employ capacitive, resistive touch, infrared, surface acoustic wave, or grounded acoustic wave technology. Furthermore, the display 406 can be a liquid crystal device, cathode ray tube (CRT), field emission device (FED, also called flat panel CRT) or any other display device suitable for creating graphic images and alphanumeric characters recognizable to the user. The host terminal 405 further includes an over molded keypad 407, which is placed as a stand alone unit to enter information concerning modes of operation of the mobile terminal or to carry out cancellation or manipulation operations on information provided by the terminal. The keypad 407 consists of a staked group of components over molded around its edges, as described in detail *supra*.